



ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

News Release

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Council Communications
Atlanta City Hall
55 Trinity Ave. SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

CONTACT:

Dexter Chambers
Council Communications Director
404-330-6309 – Direct / 404-392-0159 – Cell
dchambers@atlantaga.gov

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Atlanta City Councilmember Joyce Sheperd introduces legislation to facilitate the redevelopment of the former George W. Adair Elementary School

ATLANTA – Atlanta City Councilmember Joyce Sheperd introduced legislation Wednesday that will authorize the City to execute a quick claim deed transfer of the former George W. Adair Elementary School site to Atlanta Public Schools for the purpose of facilitating a live/work development that will include affordable housing, bringing to a resolution of a dispute over deed ownership to the property.

Adair Elementary, located at 711 Catherine Street in southwest Atlanta's Adair Park neighborhood, has been closed since the early 1970s. The Gothic Revival two-story building sits catercorner from the community's eponymous greenspace and three blocks from the Atlanta Beltline, which has helped fuel revitalization in the historic neighborhood. But the historic school has remained a hindrance to further growth.

"The redevelopment of the Adair Elementary School building has been something the community has been seeking for a long time," said Atlanta City Councilmember Joyce Sheperd, who represents the Adair Park neighborhood. "Kudos to the Reed Administration, Atlanta Public Schools and the City Council for coming to the table to do what is best for our community and its future in terms of redevelopment."

Councilmembers Sheperd and Andre Dickens have been working diligently with Mayor Kasim Reed to come up with a plan that will be a win-win for Adair park residents living near the vacant and boarded, circa 1911 school building.

The proposed new development being proposed is most appropriate because it will include resident and retail space. The developer is committed to "restoration" in addition to renovation, concentrating on preserving the historical character and context of the building, Sheperd said.

“We are thrilled to hear that the City of Atlanta and APS have resolved the dispute over the deed to the George Adair School, and we are incredibly grateful to the Mayor, Councilwoman Sheperd, and Councilman Dickens for their diligent work in reaching a compromise that will result in the preservation of this historic property,” said Atticus LeBlanc, Manager of the development company Pullman Historic Development, LLC

“We look forward to a continued collaboration with the Adair Park neighborhood, the City of Atlanta, and Atlanta Public Schools, and we are excited by the possibility of restoring this long-abandoned structure into a vibrant hub of creative energy and community engagement. Our vision for the George Adair School is to design a live/work hub for creatives, artists, and entrepreneurs that promotes community engagement and strengthens the sense of place within Adair Park. Our inclusion of micro-units within the redevelopment will build long-term affordability into the building, so that Adair Park will continue to be a diverse and thriving neighborhood for many years to come,” LeBlanc said.

The proposed floor area of new redevelopment will include:

Ground floor – 4,423 SF Retail Space

1st floor – 11,035 SF Residential Space

Second floor – 7,017 SF Residential Space

2 Town Townhomes – 5,400 SF Residential Space

Proposed New Building – 10,500 SF Residential + 5,500 SF Retail Space

TOTAL FLOOR AREA – 43,875 SF (33,952 SF Residential Space + 9,923 SF Commercial Space)

The property would be rezoned from its current zoning of Single-family residential 4A, to a proposed zoning of Mixed Residential Commercial-2.

The legislation authorizing the deed transfer was referred to the Atlanta City Council’s Finance/Executive Committee for further discussion at its 1 p.m. meeting on January 25 in Committee Room No. 1, Atlanta City Hall, 55 Trinity Avenue, S.W.

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